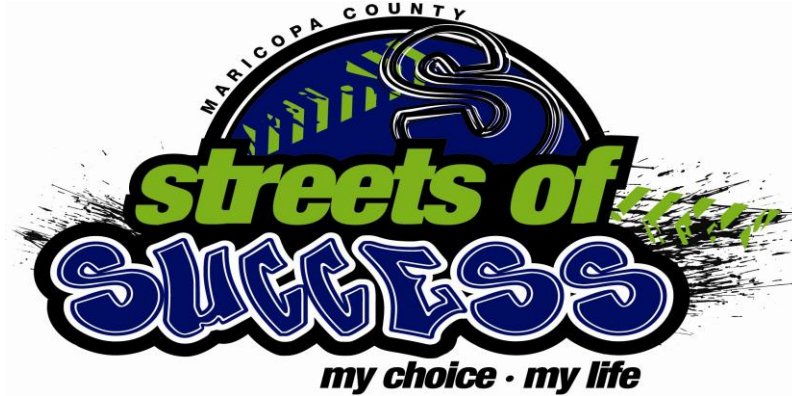


# Maricopa County Streets of Success



[www.streetsofsuccess.org](http://www.streetsofsuccess.org)

## Maricopa County Teen Pregnancy Prevention 2013 Strategic Plan

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## **Maricopa County Streets of Success Community Advisory Board Member (CAB) Members**

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Arizona Call-a-Teen Youth Resources

Arizona Department of Health Services

Arizona Facts of Life

Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Phoenix

City of Phoenix

Expressions of Love

Father Matters

One N Ten

Phoenix Police Department

Phoenix Union High School District

Rehoboth Community Development Corporation

Southwest Behavioral Health

TERROS

YMCA

The following report does not reflect the individual views of the organizations involved in the Maricopa County Streets of Success Community Advisory Board but rather the collective input and ideas of the CAB strategic planning process.

## **Background**

*“Teen pregnancy is closely linked to a host of other critical social issues — poverty and income, overall child well-being, out-of-wedlock births, responsible fatherhood, health issues, education, child welfare, and other risky behavior. There are also substantial public costs associated with adolescent childbearing. Consequently, teen pregnancy should be viewed not only as a reproductive health issue, but as one that works to improve all of these measures. Simply put, if more children in this country were born to parents who are ready and able to care for them, we would see a significant reduction in a host of social problems afflicting children in the United States, from school failure and crime to child abuse and neglect”. – The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy.*

- Between 1991 and 2008 there have been approximately 208,628 teen births in Arizona, costing taxpayers a total of \$5.5 billion over that period.
- Most of the public sector costs of teen childbearing are associated with negative consequences for the children of teen mothers, during both their childhood and their young adult years. In Arizona in 2008, taxpayer costs associated with children born to teen mothers included: \$66 million for public healthcare (Medicaid and CHIP); \$50 million for child welfare; and, for children who have reached adolescence or young adulthood, \$44 million for increased rates of incarceration and \$92 million in lost tax revenue due to decreased earnings and spending.
- Pregnancy and birth are significant contributors to high school dropout rates among girls. Only about 50% of teen mothers receive a high school diploma by 22 years of age, versus approximately 90% of women who had not given birth during adolescence.
- The children of teenage mothers are more likely to have lower school achievement and to drop out of high school, have more health problems, be incarcerated at some time during adolescence, give birth as a teenager, and face unemployment as a young adult.
- These effects remain for the teen mother and her child even after adjusting for those factors that increased the teenager’s risk for pregnancy, such as growing up in poverty, having parents with low levels of education, growing up in a single-parent family, and having poor performance in school.

This strategic plan was developed through the collaborative efforts of the Maricopa County Streets of Success Community Advisory Board (MC-SOS CAB). The Maricopa County Streets of Success has been impacting teen pregnancy prevention in Greater Phoenix and surrounding communities for six years and the CAB was created to create a county-wide framework to support MC-SOS efforts in teen pregnancy prevention programming. Over the course of nearly two years, the CAB took into consideration not only teen pregnancy and parenting, but the issues surrounding the cause and effects of teen pregnancy. Maricopa County in its entirety is vast (one of the largest counties in the United States spanning 9,224 square miles) and diverse. No single approach will meet the needs of all the (1,008,863) youth living in the Valley. The CAB, in recognizing this, chose to focus on Youth, Adults, and Healthy Environments as sectors to be addressed.

**Statement of Need:** Arizonans are impacted by the high economic and social costs of teen pregnancy.

**Youth Forums:** A positive youth plan cannot be created without involving youth; therefore, MC-SOS upholds the notion, “Nothing for us or about us, without us”. To gain youth input and perspective, four youth forums were held across Maricopa County, gaining youth input in both survey form and focus group format, seeking answers to what is most important to youth regarding teen pregnancy prevention. Forums were held in varying communities and location to earn as much diverse youth input as possible, with a total of 82 youth participants. Despite varying communities and diverse groups, themes emerged among youth, very similar to those youth across the United States. Youth reported drugs and alcohol playing a large part in teen pregnancy, as well as mixed messages (from parents, adults, internet, and friends); youth emphasized that having different messages presented to them does not help in making clear decisions. Finally, youth reported their parents need to talk more to them; that they will listen, *even* if they pretend they are not listening. This aligns with what the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy promotes:

- “Parents are number 1” – Teens say their parents MOST influence their decisions about sex, love, and relationships.
- “Forget the Talk” – it is not a one time talk; it is an 18-year conversation. Start early and let your kids know you are an “askable” parent.
- “Talk to Son’s as well as Daughters” – the Nearly 750,000 girls who got pregnant last year did not do it alone. Boys need to know teen pregnancy happens to them, too.
- “Focus on the Future” – Help your children have more options for their future that are more attractive than early pregnancy and parenthood.

**Parent Forums:** Two parent forums were held in total. MCSOS would have liked to have held more and garnered input from additional parents; however, it was difficult to gather parents together at one time and location. A total of 25 parents were present and all parents actively participated, displaying compassion and interest in what they can do to support their teens. Parents reported they wanted to talk with their teens about sex, teen pregnancy, and future goals, but did not know how to do this, and would welcome classes to assist with this. Parents also shared that their daughters are lack self-esteem. As young as the age of nine or eleven years old, parents noted they see young girls turning to young men to compensate for this loss of self-confidence. Many agreed this was a most pressing issue.

**Provider Forums:** While youth input is valued and needed, provider input (social services, schools, healthcare, etc.) is also critical; six provider forums were held across Maricopa County to gauge the varying degrees of unmet needs in communities serving youth and families, with a

total of 62 providers in attendance. Themes also emerged, and among these, three stood out as critical:

1. Families are often focused on survival – it is not that they do not care about their teens or wish their youth to have the best information necessary, it is simply that their first and foremost responsibility is food and rent. Provision of basic needs takes precedence over attending a parent forum or an education session, talking with their kids (often working while youth are home), and more.
2. Lack of transportation – this is a key factor in youth “staying busy” after school: there are many after school programs in existence; however, there is no transportation to get youth to or from these places safely, while parents are working.
3. The cost of contraceptives is a financial concern for most families. In Arizona, there are few, if any, locations where a teen (or an adult) can get free contraceptives, and for families struggling financially, contraceptives are not in the budget.

## Guiding Principles

**Vision:** The vision of Maricopa County Streets of Success (MC-SOS) is that adolescents in Maricopa County will have the information and resources needed to gain important life skills and successfully transition into adulthood.

**Mission:** The mission of the MC-SOS Advisory Board is to promote positive youth development opportunities throughout Maricopa County, and to reduce teen pregnancy rates among youth by communicating and collaborating with families and by creating/fostering a strong community network.

### **Values:**

The prevention of teen pregnancies is in the best interest of the adolescents, their families and society.

The most effective health and sexuality education is abstinence first, age appropriate, and comprehensive.

The use of evidence based curricula and programs will reduce teen pregnancy.

Prevention begins younger than teen years, to include healthy parenting techniques and youth development opportunities for youth in elementary school.

Youth are recognized as key players and are invited into the development and evaluation processes, taking into account their perspectives and opinions, for successful programming.

The prevention of teen pregnancies will improve the health and economic prosperity of Maricopa County and Arizona.

Capacity Building – We will strive to increase the capacity of community members (parents, youth serving organizations, school staff, faith leaders, and youth) to address the complex issue of teen pregnancy.

Civic Engagement - We recognize that social inequalities are barriers to the positive development of teens and their families. MC-SOS promotes social changes and systems that tackle the inequalities facing teens and their communities. We place value on meaningful opportunities for youth, and for communities and for legislators to work together to impact teen pregnancy prevention.

Community – MC-SOS builds on the strengths and capacities of community partners and includes youth in framing messages and decisions around best practices for values-neutral planning and programming.

Cultural Responsiveness – MC-SOS works effectively and with integrity in cross-cultural settings. Because of these values, MC-SOS invests its resources and time to in building knowledge, awareness and sensitivity in its work with communities and individuals from diverse cultures.

## Strategic Plan at a Glance

Problem Statement:	<b>Arizonans are impacted by the high cost of teen pregnancy.</b>
Goals:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Youth will be provided the tools and opportunities to make healthy lifestyle choices.</li> <li>2. Adults will take an active role to keep our youth safe and healthy and become knowledgeable about the high costs of teen pregnancy.</li> <li>3. Youth will thrive emotionally, socially, spiritually, and physically because they are engaged in healthy environments with positive activities and resources.</li> </ol>
Youth Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Increase life skills education opportunities for youth.</li> <li>II. Increase high school graduation rates (attendance) and decrease dropout rates; while simultaneously increasing knowledge of post-secondary opportunities.</li> <li>III. Increase participation in job training opportunities and provide access to employment opportunities.</li> <li>IV. Increase civic engagement and social responsibility among youth.</li> </ol>
Adult Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Increase awareness of teen pregnancy prevention strategies and policies through a public awareness campaign (website, social media, PSAs and/or hard copy resources).</li> <li>II. Create an adult to adult education pipeline to train adults in becoming a leader/mentor.</li> <li>III. Increase the number of adults who consciously choose to mentor a youth (informally or formally).</li> </ol>
Healthy Environment Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Access to Resources: increase awareness through the development of user friendly tools that assist with knowledge and access to health and social resources in the County.</li> <li>II. Advocacy: demonstrate economic impact of organizations that invest in youth while working collectively to reduce teen pregnancy.</li> <li>III. Engagement: youth engage in positive and diverse out of school activities that decrease crime by a 5% each year.</li> </ol>



## **Strategic Plan**

### ***Goal 1 – Youth will be provided the tools and opportunities to make healthy lifestyle choices.***

#### **Objectives:**

- I. Improve access to life skills training opportunities for identified youth in order to increase their sense of self-efficacy.
- II. Increase on-time high school graduation rates and knowledge of post-secondary educational and vocational opportunities.
- III. Increase the participation of identified youth in job training programs and services and provide access to employment opportunities.
- IV. Increase the level of civic engagement and the sense social of responsibility and participation among identified youth.
- V. Provide technical assistance and other support to community-based organizations and other agencies that provide life skills training to identified youth.

#### **Activities**

- A. Improve access to life skills training opportunities (including communication skills, nutrition, personal well-being and other activities that enhance a holistic health approach) during out of school time; provide transportation where necessary.
- B. Survey youth to determine schools and careers of choice prior to linking them with resources and services to support their personal goals; keep in mind transportation barriers.
- C. Link youth with peer and adult mentors that target 'life skills' areas of interest, as well as those which focus on future career and post-graduation goals.
- D. Identify volunteer and internship sites in communities targeting career areas of interest; provide transportation when feasible.
- E. Ensure identified youth have opportunities to access careers and school fairs for post-graduation opportunities and job/school search training (interviewing, resumes, application, financial aid, etc.).

***Goal 2 – Adults will take an active role to keep our youth safe and healthy and become knowledgeable about the high economic and social costs of teen pregnancy.***

Objectives:

- I. Increase awareness of teen pregnancy prevention strategies and policies through a public awareness campaign (including social media, website, PSA's, hard copy resources).
- II. Increase adult awareness of the importance of their influence and modeling behaviors on youth through same public awareness campaign.
- III. Create an adult-to-adult education pipeline to train adults in being a leader/mentor.
- IV. Increase the number of adults who consciously choose to mentor youth (formally or informally).

Activities:

- A. Create a communication campaign, complete with education points specifically for parents, utilizing web, social media, and text.
- B. Distribute hard copies of bilingual pamphlets to all community-based organizations and faith-based organizations; ensuring all families are reached regardless of technological capabilities or internet access.
- C. Research current phone help programs to identify compatible structures or partners
- D. Create a hotline or partner with existing hotline for parents to receive support in raising their children (specifically teenagers)
- E. To reach adults and establish infrastructure in community, utilizing current community-based and faith-based programs.
- F. Recruit adults who are already "informally mentoring youth, create community classes centered on engagement and mentorship of adults to youth, complete with an award system for mentor relationships forged.
- G. Seek relationship with existing mentor groups and programs to formalize the above processes.

***Goal 3 – Youth will thrive emotionally, socially, spiritually and physically because they are engaged in healthy environments with positive activities and resources.***

Objectives:

- I. Increase awareness through the development of web-based (mobile ready), user friendly tools that assist with the connection to resources and improve accessibility
- II. Demonstrate the economic impact of organizations that invest in youth while working collectively to reduce teen pregnancy.
- III. Engage youth in positive and diverse out of school activities that increase healthy behaviors and empower youth to make positive choices.

Activities

- A. Review engagement of teens in and out of school; identify the key agencies or services reaching them and if youth have barriers such as transportation (i.e., diversion programs, drug courts/teen courts, volunteerism, etc.) Add positive programs in schools and community based youth programs such as Be A Leader, New Pathways, etc.
- B. Measure the impact of teens already involved in programs – collect data on their pregnancy rates, crime rates, school dropout rates, attendance rates, etc.
- C. Utilize the collective Impact model: identify the maximum service capacity for each organization and engage each in targeting shared outcomes by tracking and sharing data, creating a common vision and continuous communication.
- D. Conducts cost/benefit and or return on investment analysis on youth development strategies. Share and disseminate information and data with advocates, organizations, and general community – possibly communicate results through public awareness campaign.
- E. Increase awareness of available resources via tools like AZ-211, FindHelpPhx.org and others if applicable. Engage youth to become advocates for healthy changes in their after school programs and community. Youth will create a communication campaign to share available resources and inspire other youth to get involved (for example: youth may share their personal success stories of overcoming obstacles, etc.).

# **Outcomes**

## **General Outcomes - Youth**

Successful implementation of this plan will result in statistically significant decreases in the number of youth engaged in the following risk behaviors as measured by the accompanying sources:

- Dropout rates in Maricopa County (Arizona Department of Education [ADE]).
- Rates of reported STD/STIs among youth (Arizona Department of Health Services [ADHS]).
- Sexual activity and/or unsafe sexual activity (Arizona Youth Behavior Risk Surveillance System [YRBSS]).
- Alcohol and drug use (Arizona YRBSS, Arizona Youth Survey [AYS]).
- Gang involvement (police crime reporting).
- Unintended pregnancies (ADHS).
- Male sexual aggressiveness (Arizona YRBSS).

As well as statistically significant increases in the following behaviors as measured by the accompanying sources:

- Abstinence and/or practice of safer sex (Arizona YRBSS).
- Participation in extracurricular activities.\*
- High School completion rates (ADE).
- Attending college (ADE).
- Availability and universality of sex education including early childhood (ADE, new legislation).
- Overall improvement in academic performance (ADE).
- Employment of youth (Department of Labor Statistics).

## **General Outcomes – Adult Involvement**

- Adults will report awareness of successful teen pregnancy strategies and policies based on survey collection.\*
- There will be a wide prevalence of adults involved in the lives of youth as positive mentors. \*
- Youth and families demonstrate skills and confidence in communicating decisions, goals and health services.\*

## **General Outcomes - Healthy Environments**

- Parents, educators, community members and policy makers show increased knowledge of and support for youth development principles leading to an increase in prevalence of

youth development programs available County Wide (Maricopa County Department of Public Health [MCDPH] FindHelpPhx database).

- Increase the number and regularity of local conferences held on youth development topics (MCDPH to measure).
- Increase in the number of agency representative involved in teen pregnancy prevention efforts.\*

Cost benefit analysis and/or return on investment studies, if prepared, will demonstrate teen pregnancy prevention programs and efforts create cost savings on long-term health and social safety net costs.

*\*These outcomes currently have no baseline and common measures in place but the MCSOS CAB feels they are worthy of note and strongly supports efforts within the County to organize evaluation around these outcomes.*

## **Contact Information**

### **Maricopa County Streets of Success**

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## **References**

National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy

<http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/costs/default.aspx>

National Census Bureau

Census.gov

Center for Disease Control

cdc.gov/az

<http://www.cdc.gov/teenpregnancy/>

<http://www.cdc.gov/TeenPregnancy/AboutTeenPreg.htm>

South Carolina Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

teenpregnancysc.org

## **Resources**

### **Teens**

- Maricopa County - Streets of Success – Wyman Teen Outreach Program® TOP
- ACE Programs (within Maricopa County Community College system)
- Boys and Girls Clubs of Metropolitan Phoenix and East Valley
  - Keystone Clubs
  - Passport to Manhood
  - Smart Girls
- City Youth Commissions
- Community Centered Programs
  - COPE Coalition
  - Youth in MOTION, Maryvale
  - South Mountain Works
  - Way Out West Coalition
- Community Service Learning Programs
- MyLife Tempe (Magellan Health)
  - South Phx –
- Office of the attorney general; Cyber safety and substance abuse prevention
- OneNTen
- Peer Solutions
- Pima Prevention Partnership, B-Unique – community work, 14-18 yo high school youth
- Rehoboth Community Development Corporation
- School Resource Officers
- School Sports
- School Clubs and other programs (peer leadership, ROTC, and more)
- Teen Lifeline
- Teen Court, Peer Mediation
- Tumbleweed, Safe Place

### **High Priority Youth / Culturally Competent sector**

- Faith Based initiatives and support, Valley wide
  - Faith Opportunity Zone (FOZ)
- Florence Crittenton (pregnant and parenting foster youth)
- Native Health
- OneNTen – LGBTQ youth



- Refugee: Catholic Charities, Jewish Family & Children's Services, International Rescue Committee
- Tumbleweed – Homeless Youth

#### Children/Elementary

- Adult education on bullying – Association for Supportive Childcare
- Big Brother/Big Sister
- Boys and Girls Clubs of Metropolitan Phoenix
- Boys and Girls Clubs of the East Valley
  - Camp SWIFT – Summer Camp
- Boy Scouts
- Community Liaisons in school districts
- EOL Tutoring and Performing Arts
- Girl Scouts
- Jr. High
  - Jr. ACE Program
  - School Resource Officers
- Kids at Hope
- Office of the attorney general - Cyber safety and substance abuse prevention
- Phone a Friend, Arizona Association for Supportive Childcare
- Project Confidence - Rehoboth Community Development Corporation

#### Pregnant and Parenting Youth – Secondary Prevention

- Choices for teen parents, Child and Family Resources
- New Hope Pregnant Teen Program – Maricopa Integrated Health Services
- Nurse Family Partnership
- South Phoenix Healthy Start
- Tempe TAPP (Teenage Parent Program), Compadre High School
- Teen Outreach Pregnancy Services
- Various Charter Schools with childcare, for teen parents